

News Release

POSTPONED to MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, at 10 a.m. - Centennial Park at U of M Crookston site of Flag Pole Dedication on Friday, September 10, 2010 at 10 a.m.; Public Invited to Attend

By Itollefs on Monday, August 30, 2010



Event has been postponed, rescheduled for Monday, September 13, at 10 a.m.

Honoring the history of the University of Minnesota, Crookston, will be a part of the dedication of the Centennial Park flag project on the Campus Mall. The ceremony, hosted by the Office of Development & Alumni Relations, will be held on Friday, September 10, 2010 (rescheduled for Monday, September 13), at 10 a.m. The public is welcome to attend.

The three flags that are a part of the project were raised initially in late June in time for the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) alumni reunion. The entire project was a gift of Alumnus Harris A. Peterson, a 1942 graduate of the NWSA. Peterson was also responsible for the construction of a gazebo in 2000, also a part of Centennial Park on the Crookston campus.

Background and History

The project includes the United States flag, measuring 10' by 19', flanked by the Minnesota state flag, and a maroon and gold flag bearing the logo of the U of M, Crookston, each measuring 8' by 12'. The flag poles measure 70 feet and 50 feet, respectively. The drawing and design were the work of Widseth Smith Nolting and Community Contractors served as the general contractor on the project.

In the summer of 1932, a new seventy-five foot steel flag pole, a tribute from the class of 1929, was presented to the school during the NWSA alumni reunion in June. The new pole replaced the wooden pole that crashed to the ground in a heavy windstorm late in the fall of 1928.

The NWSA opened its doors in 1906 and graduated its first class of 8 students in 1909. The campus educated students for 60 years, and during its last two years of operation, the campus transitioned to a two-year technical college, known as the University of Minnesota Crookston Technical Institute. In 1993, the campus transitioned again to offer baccalaureate degrees and became the first-ever laptop university in the nation.

Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 29 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and more than 40 concentrations, including several online degrees, in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of about 1,300 undergraduates from more than 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

In the photo: During the Northwest School of Agriculture alumni reunion in June, many of the attendees enjoyed viewing the flags in Centennial Park.

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